

UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT

Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined that the action of (describe action):

*Amending the Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to facilitate recovery of threatened and endangered species via additional authorizations for issuance of take and incidental take permits under special circumstances under Alternative 2 in the accompanying Environmental Assessment*

\_\_\_\_\_ is a categorical exclusion as provided by 516 DM 6, Appendix 1 and 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. No further documentation will therefore be made.

  X   is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Intra Service Section 7.

\_\_\_\_\_ is found to have significant effects, and therefore further consideration of this action will require a notice of intent to be published in the Federal Register announcing the decision to prepare an EIS.

\_\_\_\_\_ is not approved because of unacceptable environmental damage, or violation of Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, policy, regulations, or procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_ is an emergency action within the context of 40 CFR 1506.11. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting documents (list):

  X   Environmental Assessment and FONSI

  X   Biological Opinion (Intra Service Section 7)

/s/ Charles G. Underwood Jr., 12/30/2011

(1) INITIATOR

Date

for David L. Hankla, Field Supervisor, North Florida Ecological Services Office

/s/ Cynthia Dohner, 12/30/2011

(3) Regional Director

Date

/s/ Leopold Miranda, 12/30/2011

(2) ARD - ES

Date

**TITLE:** Amend Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that

*Amending the Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to facilitate recovery of threatened and endangered species via additional authorizations for issuance of take and incidental take permits under special circumstances under Alternative 2 in the accompanying Environmental Assessment*

is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will, accordingly, not be prepared.

**Reasons:**

1. The Intra Service Section 7 informal consultation prepared for this action has concluded that preferred alternative is “not likely to adversely affect” federally-listed species. Implementation of the preferred alternative will improve conservation values in association with permits issued under terms of the cooperative agreement.
2. Under the preferred alternative, there will be no net negative impacts to the affected species.
3. The permitting option under the preferred alternative is discretionary and is not anticipated to increase or decrease the number of actions. Thus, the preferred alternative will have insignificant impacts to the human environment.
4. The permitting guidelines under the preferred alternative are subject to further NEPA review.
5. The final Environmental Assessment incorporates edits, clarifications, and modifications based on comments received through public review, as relevant and appropriate.

**Supporting References:**

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Intra Service Section 7 Consultation

/s/ Cynthia Dohner  
Regional Director, FWS, Region 4

12/30/2011  
Date

Distribution:  
Wash. DC (OEC)  
North Florida ESO